



Office de la propriété  
intellectuelle  
du Canada

Un organisme  
d'Industrie Canada

Canadian  
Intellectual Property  
Office

An Agency of  
Industry Canada

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2003

**COPY** TECH CENTER 1600/2900



*Bureau canadien  
des brevets*  
Certification

*Canadian Patent  
Office*  
Certification

La présente atteste que les documents  
ci-joints, dont la liste figure ci-dessous,  
sont des copies authentiques des docu-  
ments déposés au Bureau des brevets.

This is to certify that the documents  
attached hereto and identified below are  
true copies of the documents on file in  
the Patent Office.

Specification and Drawings, as originally filed, with Application for Patent Serial No:  
**2,218,199** on December 9, 1997, by **MCGILL UNIVERSITY**, assignee of  
Guy A. Rouleau and Bernard Brais, for "Short GCG Expansions in the PAB II Gene for  
Oculopharyngeal Muscular Dystrophy and Diagnostic Thereof".

*Tracy Paulhus*  
Agent certificateur/Certifying Officer

January 10, 2003

Date

Canada

(CIPO 68)  
04-09-02

OPIC  CIPO

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a human PAB II gene containing transcribed polymorphic GCG repeat, which comprises a sequence as set forth in Fig. 4, which includes introns and flanking genomic sequence. The allelic variants of GCG repeat of the human PAB II gene are associated with a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus, such as polyalanine accumulation, a disease related with swallowing difficulties, such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy. The present invention also relates to a method for the diagnosis of a disease with protein accumulation in nucleus, which comprises the steps of: a) obtaining a nucleic acid sample of said patient; and b) determining allelic variants of GCG repeat of the gene of claim 1, and wherein long allelic variants are indicative of a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus.

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

- 1 -



**SHORT GCG EXPANSIONS IN THE PAB II GENE FOR OCULO-PHARYNGEAL MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC THEREOF**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**(a) Field of the Invention**

The invention relates to PAB II gene, and its uses thereof for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus, such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.

**(b) Description of Prior Art**

Autosomal dominant oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy(OPMD) is an adult-onset disease with a world-wide distribution. It usually presents in the sixth decade with progressive swallowing difficulties (dysphagia), eye lid drooping (ptosis) and proximal limb weakness. Unique nuclear filament inclusions in skeletal muscle fibers are its pathological hallmark (Tome, F.M.S. & Fardeau, *Acta Neuropath.* **49**, 85-87 (1980)). We isolated the poly(A) binding protein II (PAB II) gene from a 217 kb candidate interval in chromosome 14q11. A (GCG)6 repeat encoding a polyalanine tract located at the N-terminus of the protein was expanded to (GCG)8-13 in the 144 OPMD families screened. More severe phenotypes were observed in compound heterozygotes for the (GCG)9 mutation and a (GCG)7 allele found in 2% of the population, whereas homozygosity for the (GCG)7 allele leads to autosomal recessive OPMD. Thus the (GCG)7 allele is an example of a polymorphism which can act as either a modifier of a dominant phenotype or as a recessive mutation. Pathological expansions of the polyalanine tract may cause mutated PAB II oligomers to accumulate as filament inclusions in nuclei.

It would be highly desirable to be provided with a tool for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment

- 2 -

of a disease related with polyalanine accumulation in nucleus, such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One aim of the present invention is to provide a tool for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of a disease related with polyalanine accumulation in nucleus, such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a human PAB II gene containing transcribed polymorphic GCG repeat, which comprises a sequence as set forth in Fig. 4, which includes introns and flanking genomic sequence.

The allelic variants of GCG repeat of the human PAB II gene are associated with a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus, such as polyalanine accumulation, or with a disease related with swallowing difficulties, such as oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.

In accordance with the present invention there is also provided a method for the diagnosis of a disease with protein accumulation in nucleus, which comprises the steps of:

- a) obtaining a nucleic acid sample of said patient; and
- b) determining allelic variants of GCG repeat of the gene of the human PAB II gene, and wherein long allelic variants are indicative of a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus, such as polyalanine accumulation and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.

The long allelic variants have from about 245 to about 263 bp in length.

In accordance with the present invention there is also provided a non-human mammal model for the PAB II gene of the human PAB II gene, whose germ cells and

- 3 -

somatic cells are modified to express at least one allelic variant of the PAB II gene and wherein said allelic variant of the PAB II being introduced into the mammal, or an ancestor of the mammal, at an embryonic stage.

In accordance with the present invention there is also provided a method for the screening of therapeutic agents for the prevention and/or treatment of oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy, which comprises the steps of:

- a) administering said therapeutic agents to the non-human mammal of the present invention or oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy patients; and
- b) evaluating the prevention and/or treatment of development of oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy in said mammal or said patients.

In accordance with the present invention there is also provided a method to identify genes part of or interacting with a biochemical pathway affected by PAB II gene, which comprises the steps of:

- a) designing probes and/or primers using the hGT1 gene of the PAB II gene and screening oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy patients samples with said probes and/or primers; and
- b) evaluating the identified gene role in oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy patients.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figs. 1A-B illustrate the positional cloning of the PAB II gene;

Figs. 2A-G illustrate the OPMD (GCG)<sub>n</sub> expansion sizes and sequence of mutations;

Fig. 3 illustrates the age distribution of swallowing time (st) for French Canadian OPMD carriers of the (GCG)<sub>9</sub> mutation; and

- 4 -

Fig. 4 illustrates the nucleotide sequence of human poly(A) binding protein II (hPAB II).

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In order to identify the gene mutated in OPMD, we constructed a 350 kb cosmid contig between flanking markers D14S990 and D14S1457 (Fig. 1A). Positions of the PAB II selected cDNA clones in relation to the EcoRI restriction map and the Genealogy-based Estimate of Historical Meiosis (GEHM)-derived candidate interval (Rommens, J.M. et al., in *Proceedings of the third international workshop on the identification of transcribed sequences* (eds. Hochgeschwender, U. & Gardiner, K.) 65-79 (Plenum, New York, 1994)).

The human poly(A) binding protein II gene (PAB II) is encoded by the nucleotide sequence as set forth in Fig. 4.

Twenty-five cDNAs were isolated by cDNA selection from the candidate interval (Rommens, J.M. et al., in *Proceedings of the third international workshop on the identification of transcribed sequences* (eds. Hochgeschwender, U. & Gardiner, K.) 65-79 (Plenum, New York, 1994)). Three of these hybridized to a common 20 kb EcoRI restriction fragment and showed high sequence homology to the bovine poly(A) binding protein II gene (bPAB II) (Fig. 1A). The PAB II gene appeared to be a good candidate for OPMD because it mapped to the genetically defined 0.26 cM candidate interval in 14q11 (Fig. 1A), its mRNA showed a high level of expression in skeletal muscle, and the PAB II protein is exclusively localized to the nucleus (Krause, S. et al., *Exp. Cell Res.* **214**, 75-82 (1994)) where it acts as a factor in mRNA polyadenylation (Whale, E., *Cell* **66**, 759-768 (1991); Whale, E. et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* **268**, 2937-2945 (1993); Bienroth, S. et al., *EMBO J.* **12**, 585-594 (1993)).

- 5 -

We subcloned a 8 kb HindIII genomic fragment containing the PAB II gene, and sequenced 6002 bp (GenBank: AF026029)(Nemeth, A. et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23, 4034-4041 (1995)) (Fig. 1B). Genomic structure of the PAB II gene, and position of the OPMD (GCG)<sub>n</sub> expansions. Exons are numbered. Introns 1 and 6 are variably present in 60% of cDNA clones. ORF, open reading frame; cen, centromere and tel, telomere.

The coding sequence was based on the previously published bovine sequence (GenBank: X89969) and the sequence of 31 human cDNAs and ESTs. The gene is composed of 7 exons and is transcribed in the cen-qter orientation (Fig. 1B). Multiple splice variants are found in ESTs and on Northern blots (Nemeth, A. et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23, 4034-4041 (1995)). In particular, introns 1 and 6 are present in more than 60% of clones (Fig. 1B)(Nemeth, A. et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23, 4034-4041 (1995)). The coding and protein sequences are highly conserved between human, bovine and mouse (GenBank: U93050). 93% of the PAB II sequence was readily amenable to RT-PCR- or genomic-SSCP screening. No mutations were uncovered using both techniques. However, a 400 bp region of exon 1 containing the start codon could not be readily amplified. This region is 80% GC rich. It includes a (GCG)<sub>6</sub> repeat which codes for the first six alanines of a homopolymeric stretch of 10 (Fig. 2G). Nucleotide sequence of the mutated region of PAB II. Amino acid sequences of the N-terminus polyalanine stretch and position of the OPMD alanine insertions.

Special conditions were designed to amplify by PCR a 242 bp genomic fragment including this GCG-repeat. The (GCG)<sub>6</sub> allele was found in 98% of French Canadian non-OPMD control chromosomes, whereas 2% of

- 6 -

chromosomes carried a (GCG)<sub>7</sub> polymorphism (n=86) (Braiss, B. et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **4**, 429-434 (1995)).

Screening OPMD cases belonging to 144 families showed in all cases a PCR product larger by 6 to 21 bp than that found in controls (Fig. 2A). (GCG)<sub>6</sub> normal allele (N) and the six different (GCG)<sub>n</sub> expansions observed in 144 families.

Sequencing of these fragments revealed that the increased sizes were due to expansions of the GCG repeat (Fig. 2G). Fig. 2F shows the sequence of the (GCG)<sub>9</sub> French Canadian expansion in a heterozygous parent and his homozygous child. Partial sequence of exon 1 in a normal (GCG)<sub>6</sub> control (N), a heterozygote (ht.) and a homozygote (hm.) for the (GCG)<sub>9</sub>-repeat mutation. The number of families sharing the different (GCG)<sub>n</sub>-repeats expansions is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Number of families sharing the different dominant (GCG)<sub>n</sub> OPMD mutations**

<b>Mutations</b>	<b>Polyalanine</b>	<b>Families</b>
(GCG) <sub>8</sub>	12	4
(GCG) <sub>9</sub>	13	99
(GCG) <sub>10</sub>	14	19
(GCG) <sub>11</sub>	15	16
(GCG) <sub>12</sub>	16	5
(GCG) <sub>13</sub>	17	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>144</b>

■, 10 alanineresidues in normal PAB II.

The (GCG)<sub>9</sub> expansion shared by 70 French Canadian families is the most frequent mutation we observed (Table 1). The (GCG)<sub>9</sub> expansion is quite stable, with a single doubling observed in family F151 in an estimated 598 French Canadian meioses (Fig. 2C). The doubling of the French Canadian (GCG)<sub>9</sub> expansion is demonstrated in Family F151.



- 7 -

This contrasts with the unstable nature of previously described disease-causing triplet-repeats (Rosenberg, R.N., *New Eng. J. Med.* **335**, 1222-1224 (1996)).

Genotyping of all the participants in our clinical study of French Canadian OPMD provided molecular insights into the clinical variability observed in this condition. The genotypes for both copies of the PAB II mutated region were added to an anonymous version of our clinical database of 176 (GCG)9 mutation carriers (Brais, B. et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **4**, 429-434 (1995)). Severity of the phenotype can be assessed by the swallowing time (st) in seconds taken to drink 80 cc of ice-cold water (Brais, B. et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **4**, 429-434 (1995); Bouchard, J.-P. et al., *Can. J. Neurol. Sci.* **19**, 296-297 (1992)). The late onset and progressive nature of the muscular dystrophy is clearly illustrated in heterozygous carriers of the (GCG)9 mutation (bold curve in Fig. 3) when compared the average st of control (GCG)6 homozygous participants (n=76, thinner line in Fig. 3). The bold curve represents the average OPMD st for carriers of only one copy of the (GCG)9 mutation (n=169), while the thinner line corresponds to the average st for (GCG)6 homozygous normal controls (n=76). The black dot corresponds to the st value for individual VIII. Roman numerals refer to individual cases shown in Figs. 2B, 2D and discussed in the text. Genotype of a homozygous (GCG)9 case and her parents (Fig. 2B). Independent segregation of the (GCG)7 allele. Case V has a more severe OPMD phenotype (Fig. 2D).

Two groups of genotypically distinct OPMD cases have more severe swallowing difficulties. Individuals I, II, and III have an early-onset disease and are

- 8 -

homozygous for the (GCG)9 expansion ( $P < 10^{-5}$ ) (Figs. 2B, F). Cases IV, V, VI and VII have more severe phenotypes and are compound heterozygotes for the (GCG)9 mutation and the (GCG)7 polymorphism ( $P < 10^{-5}$ ). In Fig. 2D the independent segregation of the two alleles is shown. Case V, who inherited the French Canadian (GCG)9 mutation and the (GCG)7 polymorphism, is more symptomatic than his brother VIII who carries the (GCG)9 mutation and a normal (GCG)6 allele (Figs. 2D and 3). The (GCG)7 polymorphism thus appears to be a modifier of severity of dominant OPMD. Furthermore, the (GCG)7 allele can act as a recessive mutation. This was documented in the French patient IX who inherited two copies of the (GCG)7 polymorphism and has a late-onset autosomal recessive form of OPMD (Fig. 2E). Case IX, who has a recessive form of OPMD, is shown to have inherited two copies of the (GCG)7 polymorphism.

This is the first description of short trinucleotide repeat expansions causing a human disease. The addition of only two GCG repeats is sufficient to cause dominant OPMD. OPMD expansions do not share the cardinal features of "dynamic mutations". The GCG expansions are not only short they are also meiotically quite stable. Furthermore, there is a clear cut-off between the normal and abnormal alleles, a single GCG expansion causing a recessive phenotype. The PAB II (GCG)7 allele is the first example of a relatively frequent allele which can act as either a modifier of a dominant phenotype or as a recessive mutation. This dosage effect is reminiscent of the one observed in a homozygote for two dominant synpolydactyly mutations. In this case, the patient had more severe deformities because she inherited two duplications causing an expansion in the polyalanine

tract of the HOXD13 protein (Akarsu, A.N. et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 5, 945-952 (1996)). A duplication causing a similar polyalanine expansion in the  $\alpha$  subunit 1 gene of the core-binding transcription factor (CBF $\alpha$ 1) has also been found to cause dominant cleidocranial dysplasia (Mundlos, S. et al., *Cell* 89, 773-779 (1997)). The mutations in these two rare diseases are not triplet-repeats. They are duplications of "cryptic repeats" composed of mixed synonymous codons and are thought to result from unequal crossing over (Warren, S.T., *Science* 275, 408-409 (1997)). In the case of OPMD, slippage during replication causing a reiteration of the GCG codon is a more likely mechanism (Wells, D.R., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 2875-2878 (1996)).

Different observations converge to suggest that a gain of function of PAB II may cause the accumulation of nuclear filaments observed in OPMD (Tome, F.M.S. & Fardeau, *Acta Neuropath.* 49, 85-87 (1980)). PAB II is found mostly in dimeric and oligomeric form (Nemeth, A. et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23, 4034-4041 (1995)). It is possible that the polyalanine tract plays a role in polymerization. Polyalanine stretches have been found in many other nuclear proteins such as the HOX proteins, but their functions are still unknown (Davies, S.W. et al., *Cell* 90, 537-548 (1997)). Alanine is a highly hydrophobic amino acid present in the cores of proteins. In dragline spider silk, polyalanine stretches are thought to form  $\beta$ -sheet structures important in ensuring the fibers' strength (Simmons, A.H. et al., *Science* 271, 84-87 (1996)). Polyalanine oligomers have also been shown to be extremely resistant to chemical denaturation and enzymatic degradation (Forood, B. et al., *Bioch. and Biophys. Res. Com.* 211, 7-13 (1995)). One can speculate that PAB II oligomers comprised of a sufficient number of mutated

- 10 -

molecules might accumulate in the nuclei by forming undegradable polyalanine rich macromolecules. The rate of the accumulation would then depend on the ratio of mutated to non-mutated protein. The more severe phenotypes observed in homozygotes for the (GCG)9 mutations and compound heterozygotes for the (GCG)9 mutation and (GCG)7 allele may correspond to the fact that in these cases PAB II oligomers are composed only of mutated proteins. The ensuing faster filament accumulation could cause accelerated cell death. The recent description of nuclear filament inclusions in Huntington's disease, raises the possibility that "nuclear toxicity" caused by the accumulation of mutated homopolymeric domains is involved in the molecular pathophysiology of other triplet-repeat diseases (Davies, S.W. et al., *Cell* **90**, 537-548 (1997); Scherzinger, E. et al., *Cell* **90**, 549-558 (1997); DiFiglia, M. et al., *Science* **277**, 1990-1993 (1997)). Future immunocytochemical and expression studies will be able to test this pathophysiological hypothesis and provide some insight into why certain muscle groups are more affected while all tissues express PAB II.

## **Methods**

### **Contig and cDNA selection**

The cosmid contig was constructed by standard cosmid walking techniques using a gridded chromosome 14-specific cosmid library (Evans, G.A. et al., *Gene* **79**, 9-20 (1989)). The cDNA clones were isolated by cDNA selection as previously described (Rommens, J.M. et al., in *Proceedings of the third international workshop on the identification of transcribed sequences* (eds. Hochgeschwender, U. & Gardiner, K.) 65-79 (Plenum, New York, 1994)).

Cloning of the PAB II gene. Three cDNA clones corresponding to PAB II were sequenced (Sequenase,

- 11 -

USB). Clones were verified to map to cosmids by Southern hybridization. The 8 kb HindIII restriction fragment was subcloned from cosmid 166G8 into pBluescriptII (SK) (Stratagene). The clone was sequenced using primers derived from the bPABII gene and human EST sequences. Sequencing of the PAB II introns was done by primer walking.

PAB II mutation screening and sequencing. All cases were diagnosed as having OPMD on clinical grounds (Brais, B. et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 4, 429-434 (1995)). RT-PCR- and genomic SSCP analyses were done using standard protocols (Lafrenière, R.G. et al., *Nat. Genet.* 15, 298-302 (1997)). The primers used to amplify the PAB II mutated region were: 5'-CGCAGTGCCCCGCCTTAGA-3' and 5'-ACAAGATGGCGCCGCCGCCCGGC-3'. PCR reactions were performed in a total volume of 15 µl containing: 40 ng of genomic DNA; 1.5 mg of BSA; 1 mM of each primer; 250 mM dCTP and dTTP; 25 mM dATP; 125 mM of dGTP and 125 mM of 7-deaza-dGTP (Pharmacia); 7.5% DMSO; 3.75 mCi[35S]dATP, 1.5 unit of Taq DNA polymerase and 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> (Perkin Elmer). For non-radioactive PCR reactions the [35S]dATP was replaced by 225 mM of dATP. The amplification procedure consisted of an initial denaturation step at 95°C for five minutes, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 15 s, annealing at 70°C for 30 s, elongation at 74°C for 30 s and a final elongation at 74°C for 7 min. Samples were loaded on 5% polyacrylamide denaturing gels. Following electrophoresis, gels were dried and autoradiographs were obtained. Sizes of the inserts were determined by comparing to a standard M13 sequence (Sequenase, USB). Fragments used for sequencing were gel-purified. Sequencing of the mutated fragment using the Amplicycle kit (Perkin Elmer) was done with the 5'-

- 12 -

CGCAGTGCCCCGCCTTAGAGGTG-3' primer at an elongation temperature of 68°C.

Stability of (GCG)-repeat expansions. The meiotic stability of the (GCG)9-repeat was estimated based on our large French Canadian OPMD cohort. We previously established that a single ancestral OPMD carrier chromosome was introduced in the French Canadian population by three sisters in 1648. Seventy of the seventy one French Canadian OPMD families tested to date segregate a (GCG)9 expansion. However, in family F151, the affected brother and sister, despite sharing the French Canadian ancestral haplotype, carry a (GCG)12 expansion twice the size of the ancestral (GCG)9 mutation (Fig. 2C). In our founder effect study, we estimated that 450 (304-594) historical meioses shaped the 123 OPMD cases belonging to 42 of the 71 enrolled families. Our screening of our full set of participants allowed us to identify another 148 (GCG)9 carrier chromosomes. Therefore, we estimate that a single mutation of the (GCG)9 expansion has occurred in 598 (452-742) meioses.

Genotype-phenotype correlations. 176 carriers of at least one copy of the (GCG)9 mutation were examined during the early stage of the linkage study. All were asked to swallow 80 cc of ice-cold water as rapidly as possible. Testing was stopped after 60 seconds. The swallowing time (st) was validated as a sensitive test to identify OPMD cases (Brais, B. et al., *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 4, 429-434 (1995); Bouchard, J.-P. et al., *Can. J. Neurol. Sci.* 19, 296-297 (1992)). The st values for 76 (GCG)6 homozygotes normal controls is illustrated in Fig. 3. Analyses of variance were computed by two-way ANOVA (SYSTAT package). For the (GCG)9 homozygotes their mean st value was compared to the mean value for all (GCG)9 heterozygotes aged 35-40

- 13 -

( $P < 10^{-5}$ ). For the (GCG)9 and (GCG)7 compound heterozygotes their mean st value was compared to the mean value for all (GCG)9 heterozygotes aged 45-65 ( $P < 10^{-5}$ ).

While the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modifications and this application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice within the art to which the invention pertains and as may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth, and as follows in the scope of the appended claims.

- 14 -

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A human PAB II gene containing transcribed polymorphic GCG repeat, which comprises a sequence as set forth in Fig. 4, which includes introns and flanking genomic sequence.
2. The gene of claim 1, wherein allelic variants of GCG repeat are associated with a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus.
3. The gene of claim 2, wherein said protein accumulation is polyalanine accumulation.
4. The gene of claim 1, wherein allelic variants of GCG repeat are associated with a disease related with swallowing difficulties.
5. The gene of claim 1, wherein said disease is oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.
6. A method for the diagnosis of a disease with protein accumulation in nucleus, which comprises the steps of:
  - a) obtaining a nucleic acid sample of said patient; and
  - b) determining allelic variants of GCG repeat of the gene of claim 1, and wherein long allelic variants are indicative of a disease related with protein accumulation in nucleus.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said disease is oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy.



- 15 -

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said long allelic variants have from about 245 to about 263 bp in length.

9. A non-human mammal model for the PAB II gene of claim 1, whose germ cells and somatic cells are modified to express at least one allelic variant of the PAB II gene and wherein said allelic variant of the PAB II being introduced into the mammal, or an ancestor of the mammal, at an embryonic stage.

10. A method for the screening of therapeutic agents for the prevention and/or treatment of oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy, which comprises the steps of:

- a) administering said therapeutic agents to the non-human mammal of claim 9 or oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy patients; and
- b) evaluating the prevention and/or treatment of development of oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy in said mammal or said patients.

11. A method to identify genes part of or interacting with a biochemical pathway affected by PAB II gene, which comprises the steps of:

- a) designing probes and/or primers using the hGT1 gene of claim 1 and screening oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy patients samples with said probes and/or primers; and
- b) evaluating the identified gene role in oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy patients.

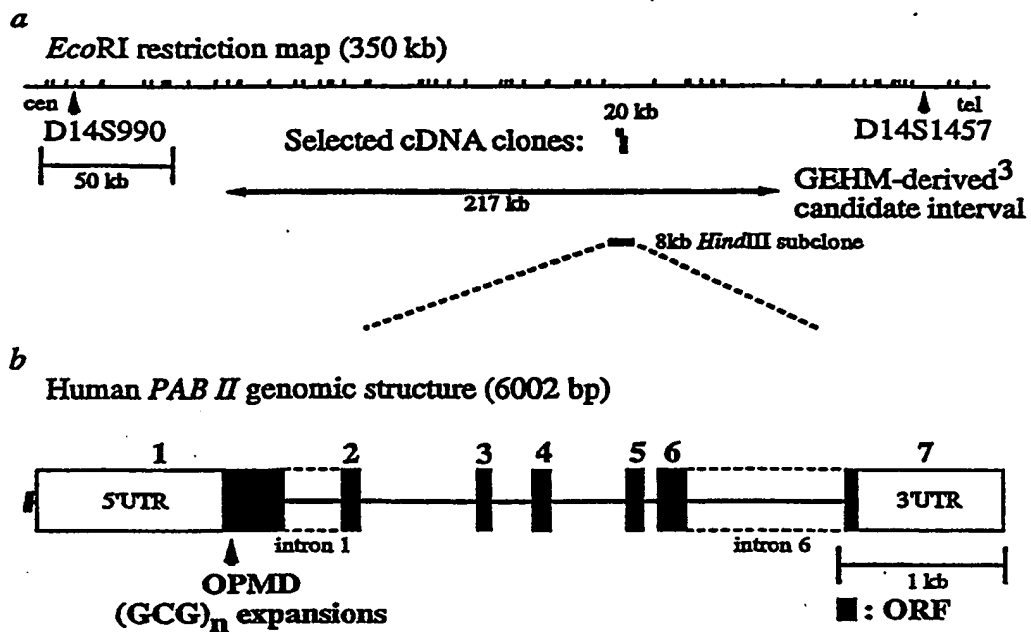
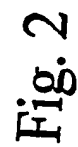


Fig. 1



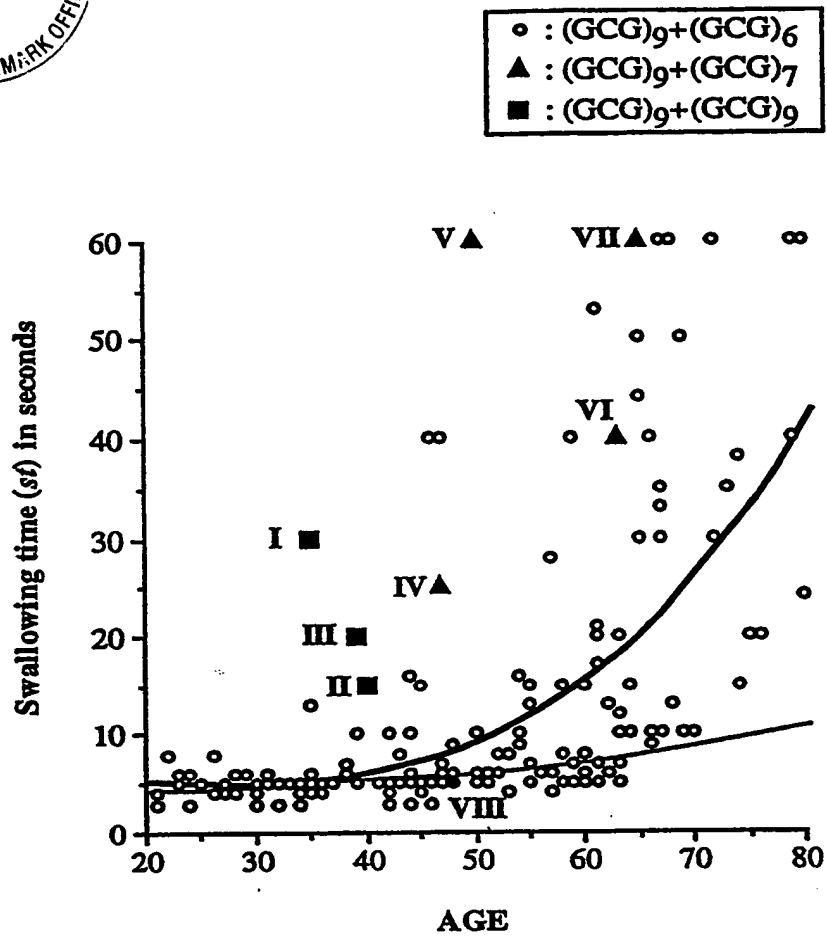
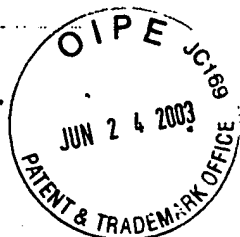


Fig. 3



1	aatgaaggtg	gacacccaaa	tagccccaat	acaaatgcct	gttcaatcaa	ccaaacatct
61	aagcagcaca	tctatgtggt	agcatattgc	caggccgtga	gactgcgaat	ataaatagga
121	accgcccctc	atctgcaggc	gctcacaacc	tagttagcaa	acagtaaaac	aattaagcgc
181	gocgtggaca	taggcccact	tgctctggga	aatgagggga	agctgggggtt	tgcaagtgtt
241	tgattgaagg	gggactacat	gtagagggca	cagactgggt	gcaggtacac	ccaaaggaac
301	gagaagagt	gaaggaaaca	acatccacaa	agtaaccaca	tgctggcgta	tcgaaggccg
361	tgatttacgg	ttttgagact	ttacctcgcc	agcaaaaggg	ggccagtctg	ttagcgggtg
421	agattggagg	ggtgacattg	gaagctgtcc	aggaaaaaga	aaatggaaact	ggggagcaga
481	aggcctacgc	aagagggcgg	gacagacagg	acttgtgact	agtagctctg	gactgaggaa
541	tcctccctgc	tttctgggtg	gggagagcta	gtggatgatg	gtgccataaa	cctggatggg
601	gaaagtaagc	tcctcctgg	aatgcttcat	tcacaacctc	cattttcagc	aacatcccat
661	ctactggtgc	ttcctgggtg	agatacaagt	ttcctgaaac	tgctgctctg	ttttgggcct
721	caccgggcca	acagctcact	agctggcaag	cagtagtata	aagatggcgg	ccccctagga
781	ctggctagtc	atgtgacctc	gggtttccca	agtttgaaac	ccggcagtc	tttcgggggc
841	aaggttcacc	tgtcacgaaa	cgagtgtcac	cccttcgact	ctcgcaagcc	aatcggcatc
901	tgagactggg	ccactgcggt	gaggcgatcg	gaagattggg	cctttccagt	cgcctagcta
961	gggccaatca	cggagcgtcc	catacttcgc	ggggccgccc	gtaggccggg	gagaagcagg
1021	aatatcgtca	cagcgtggcg	gtattattac	ctaaggactc	gataggaggt	gggacgcgtg
1081	ttgattgaca	ggcagatttc	cctaccggga	tttgagaatt	tgccgcagtg	cccgccctag
1141	aggtgcgctt	atttgattgc	caagtaatat	tccccaatgg	agtactagct	catgggtgacg
1201	ggcaggcagc	ttgagcta	tgctcctccg	tgcccgccgc	agctctccac	atgccggggc
1261	gcggggccca	gtctgagcgg	cgatggcgcc	ggcgccggcg	gcggcagcag	gcggcggggc
1321	tgccggcggt	cggggctccg	ggccggggcg	gcggcgccat	cctgtgcccg	gggcccgttg
1381	ggaggccggg	gagggggccc	cgggggggcg	aggggactac	gggaacggcc	tggaagtctga
1441	ggaactggag	cctgaggagc	tgctgctgga	gcccagagcc	gagcccagac	ccgaagagga
1501	gcgcggcgcc	ccccgcggcc	ccccgggagc	tcggggccct	gggcccgtgt	cgggagcccc
1561	cgccagccaa	gaggaggagg	aggaggccgg	actggctcag	ggtagcccg	ggtagccgc
1621	cattgaggac	ccggtgagga	aggaggcgga	gcgagcaggc	cgccggctgg	cgctcactg
1681	gaggcccaga	gctcgggcga	gcggtggcag	gcgggggggt	gggttggggc	gggaataacg
1741	tggtcggggc	gggtcggggc	ggggatgggt	cagcgatcac	tacaaggggc	ccgactgggt
1801	tgattcgggc	gtcacgggtg	cctagtgttg	ttctagagag	ggtagctttt	cttttatcac
1861	gacctcgca	tggggcgagg	gaaatggccg	agcatggctg	aggcgcgctc	ggccagagag
1921	cagggcacag	cccctgcgtt	ggttcctctt	aagctgtcct	ccataccctc	cccacttata
1981	ttaggagctg	gaagctatca	aagctcgagt	cagggagatg	gaggaagaag	ctgagaagct
2041	aaaggagcta	cagaacgagg	tagagaagca	gatgaatatg	agtcacacct	caggcaatgc
2101	tgagtaactg	gcggttgcac	gcggagcccg	ggttctcggg	ttggaagggg	tgtggggagg
2161	atggggaaatg	tggggttaga	tactcggcac	cctggagctg	cctgtctgag	cctgtatgac
2221	tgtagccgcg	tcatagtccg	ttgtgtgttc	ctctgacctt	tgtgaggcag	aactgatatt
2281	ttggtggtgg	tagccttgtg	cctccctttg	tcctgttata	attgtgttgc	tctttattct
2341	tagcttacgt	ctatctttct	ttggtagagg	ttgcgtgctc	gcatttgacc	ttcaaatcta
2401	atagtttttc	ctccaattgg	agacgcttta	ggattctaag	agaaagcaag	ctggaagggg
2461	tttccccttt	aaattctaga	aatgtggagt	ctcagcccac	ttaattttgc	tcactcttaa
2521	aagcattttca	accaaagcca	ttcattaggg	atttgatttg	gagggcagga	gggattccta
2581	tactgtttta	agtgtgtatt	aattctttca	atttatcgaa	ttatttagtg	agtaacctgc
2641	tatgcactag	gcactattct	cggcttgttg	gtacagcagg	gaacagcaca	gacaaaaatc
2701	tttgccctca	ctgagcttat	gggatagtgc	tggtggtgga	agtgcacat	attgggtcaag
2761	tagaaaacaa	gtgtgtggtt	tttgtaaaaa	attatttttt	cctgatagct	ggcccggtga
2821	tcagtgtccat	tgaggagaag	atggaggctg	atgcccgctc	catctatgtt	ggcaatgtga
2881	cgtactgggg	ctctgactgg	ggttgggggc	aagttcttct	tttggggaat	tatttaatag
2941	tcttgaaaaga	acatctccgg	gatagatgtg	gttttgggtg	tgaggggagt	gtgggaagga
3001	ggttaaaagg	aatggaaatga	tcagtaatca	gcaaaggctc	tggttttggg	aggaaaagag
3061	attaattcct	caaattacca	gatttcatgt	gctttgggtg	atgatggccc	agaccaaagg
3121	ctcgggaggg	ttcttttgag	acaggaatct	gcctgggtgc	tgtgaaatct	ttctcctctc
3181	atcagggtgga	ctatggtgca	acagcagaag	agctggaagc	tcactttcat	ggctgtggtt
3241	cagtcacacc	tgttaccata	ctgtgtgaca	aatttagtgg	ccatcccaaa	ggtaaagtaa
3301	aggggagtaa	gttgagataa	tttaaattac	agtgtacaaa	tagataaatt	atgttttata
3361	ttgagcagta	agttattttg	tgtaaacaca	ggtgatctgt	gtcatttaag	atcatggcat
3421	taatgttgat	atatcaggag	ttgcacctaa	atgtcttcag	aggccagata	acaaaaatga
3481	aggctagatg	tggttgggat	tacgaactag	aaggggaggg	gcagcttcta	cttggcctat
3541	tatggcatat	ggaaattcag	gccctgtgtg	tcttattttt	acaaatttca	aagagtagct
3601	ggaaattttta	aaattttaa	gatttgcga	gattgaaatt	ttccatttag	aagaattttg
3661	acaaataaaa	aatataactg	cattgtagcc	caaaacgaag	catgcctgca	ggttgaattt

Fig. 4A



3721 gacctgtgag gtattttgtaa cctcagagag atacaatgac aattcttttc aggtttgcgt  
3781 atatagagtt ctcagacaaa gagtcagtga ggacttcctt ggccttagat gaggccctat  
3841 ttagaggaag gcaaatcaag gtaagcctat gtccattgct gttctagtgt tgtataaact  
3901 ctccagggtg cctttaagge tatcatttgt tcatctctga ctcagggtgat cccaaaacga  
3961 accaacagac caggcatcag cacaacagac cggggttttc cacgagcccg ctaccgcgcc  
4021 cggaccacca actacaacag ctcccgctct cgattctaca gtgggtttta cagcaggccc  
4081 cgggggtcgcg tctacaggte aggatagatg ggctgctcct ctttcccccg cctcccggtga  
4141 gccccgtatg cttcctcctc tctggtctga ggaacctccc tccccccacc cctccccgtg  
4201 gtcttcagga actttgtctc ctgctgtgag aggttgagga aggtagtgtg aggccaggcc  
4261 agaaggcagc ctcctcatct tttctgcagt agaaattggt gataagggtg gcatccctcc  
4321 cttgggtcaa agaggcttcc acccccagcc ttttttttct tgggagttgg tggcatttga  
4381 aggtgtttgc ggacaaaact gggaggaaca gggcctccag gaagttgaaa gactgcttg  
4441 gacatttgtt acttttttcg gagttagga gggattgaag actgaacctc ccttggaaga  
4501 ataccagagg ctagttagt ttgcaagggt aacttctcac gggaggattt tgagatactt  
4561 attctttatt tgagccagtc tctgtctcta catttaaata ggggcctagt gtggtnccca  
4621 ggtttttgcc ttgcttcact tctgtctcta ctttaaata gacgggttag gcatataaac  
4681 cttggcctttt cataagctct acctgcctat ccccaggagt tagggaggat ctatttgtga  
4741 aggccctagg gtttaaaaaac tgtggaggac tgaaaaactg gataaaaagg gggcctttt  
4801 cettgccccct gtctctcact cagatgcgct tctttttcgc cactgtttgg caaagttttc  
4861 tgtaagcccc ccctccccct gcccagttc tcccagggtc gttactattt ctgggatcat  
4921 ggggtcggtt ttaggacact tgaacacttc ttttcccccc ttcccttcac agtaactggg  
4981 gcaggggcct acggggaggg gcttgtactg aactatctag tgatcacgtt aacacctaac  
5041 tctccttctt tcttccaggg gccgggctag agcgacatca tggatttccc cttactaaaa  
5101 aaagtgtgta ttaggaggag agagaggaaa aaaagaggaa agaaggaaaa aaaaaagaat  
5161 taaaaaaaaa aaaaagaaaa acagaagatg accttgatgg aaaaaaata ttttttaaaa  
5221 aaaagatata ctgtggaagg ggggagaatc ccataactaa ctgctgagga gggacctgct  
5281 ttggggagta ggggaaggcc caggagtggt ggcagggggc tgcttattca ctctggggat  
5341 tcgccatgga cacgtctcaa ctgctcaagg gtgggtggta ggagggtttt ttttaccag  
5401 ccccttgggc ctgctcaagg ctgttctgct tgttaccttc cctccgtct tctcctgcc  
5461 ggctctggaa ggacaccaa ccctcctgcc tgctcctgtc cagccagggtc taccaccac  
5521 tttcacagtc tccctgcccc tccagattgc ctggtgatct attttgtttc cttttgtgtt  
5581 tctttttctg ttttgagtgt ctttctttgc aggtttctgt agccggaaga tctccgttcc  
5701 gctcccagcg gctccagtgt aaattccct tccccctggg gaaatgcact acctgtttt  
5761 ggggggttta ggggtgtttt tgtttttcag ttgttttgtt tttttgtttt tttttttcc  
5821 tttgcctttt ttccctttta tttggaggga atgggaggaa gtgggaacag ggaggtggga  
5881 ggtggatttt gtttattttt ttagctcatt tccaggggtg ggaatttttt tttaatatgt  
5941 gtcatgaata aagttgtttt tgaaaaataa aaaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaa  
6001 aa

Fig. 4B